United Nations A/C.6/53/6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 October 1998
English
Original: English and Russian

Fifty-third session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 155
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 28 September 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the joint statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation on terrorism adopted at the meeting between the Iranian and Russian Ministers for Foreign Affairs in New York on 26 September 1998 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 155.

(Signed) **Nejad Hosseinian**
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. **Lavrov**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

98-29015 (E) 071098

Annex

Joint Iranian-Russian Statement on Terrorism, adopted at New York on 26 September 1998

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation categorically reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motivation. We condemn recent terrorist acts in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which are designed to undermine the democratic process and the evolution of civil society as well as other terrorist acts, including those in Omagh, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, and note with deep concern the increasing resort by terrorists to actions aimed at achieving the maximum number of casualties.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation are determined to combat this deadly global challenge. Since terrorism is a global problem, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation recognize that transparent universal cooperation is essential to meeting the challenge it poses to international stability and humanity at large. We are committed to expand cooperation bilaterally, with other members of the international community and within the United Nations, to ensure that the response to this challenge is effective and global. To these ends we have agreed to establish an expert working group.

We agree on certain key principles. First we recognize the legitimate right of countries to protect their citizens from terrorist attacks and to seek legitimate means to deter them. We also reaffirm the inalienable right of people under alien occupation to self-determination. Second, we agree that no safe haven shall be given to terrorists. Third, we agree that States should not allow or acquiesce in the use of their territories by terrorists and their associates to instigate, plan, finance or support terrorist activities in other countries. Fourth, we concur on the usefulness of action to block access by terrorist organizations to financial institutions and other means of financing their activities as one way to curb their attacks. Fifth, we also emphasize the importance of blocking terrorist access to deadly weapons, in particular, weapons of mass destruction. Finally, we stress that all States should refrain from prejudgements and accusations which undermine international solidarity in the fight against terrorism, which requires cooperation and consolidated action by all States.

We are determined to strengthen the international legal basis of the fight against terrorism through effective universal cooperation. We underline the importance of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings of 1998, and the conclusion of a convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. We will endeavour to become party to existing universal anti-terrorism conventions at the earliest possible time and call upon all others to do likewise.